

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for forwarding a web address to another web address in a network comprising the steps, performed by a processor, of:

receiving a request destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI);

determining a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name;

combining the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier; and

redirecting the request to the second web address.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, said determining step further comprising:
determining whether a search for forwarding information can be completed; and
indicating that there has been a system error based on the determination that the search cannot be completed.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, said determining step further comprising:
directing the request to a default web address based on a determination that a search could be completed and no forwarding URL that corresponds to the domain name is found.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, said determining step further comprising:
searching a data file for the forwarding URL.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the data file is periodically updated by a data generator, the data generator performing the steps of:

extracting forwarding information from a customer database; and storing the forwarding information in the data file.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the customer database includes a table that associates a domain name with a forwarding URL.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, said redirecting step further comprising:
sending to a user a string that includes the forwarding URL.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the string is sent to the user using a hypertext transfer protocol (http) location command.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the request is supplied by a user.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing a method for forwarding a web address to another web address, the method comprising:

receiving a request destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI);

determining a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name;

combining the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier; and

redirecting the request to the second web address.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, said determining step further comprising:

determining whether a search for forwarding information can be completed; and
indicating that there has been a system error based on the determination that the search cannot be completed.

16. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 15, said determining step further comprising:

directing the request to a default web address based on a determination that a search could be completed and no forwarding URL that corresponds to the domain name is found.

17. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, said determining step further comprising:

searching a data file for the forwarding URL.

18. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the data file is periodically updated by a data generator, the data generator performing the steps of:

extracting forwarding information from a customer database; and
storing the forwarding information in the data file.

19. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the customer database includes a table that associates a domain name with a forwarding URL.

20. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, said redirecting step further comprising:

sending to a user a string that includes the forwarding URL.

21. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the string is sent to the user using a hypertext transfer protocol (http) location command.

22. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the request is supplied by a user.

23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for forwarding a web address to another web address,

comprising:

a memory having program instructions; and

a processor responsive to the program instructions to receive a request destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI), determine a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name, combine the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier, and redirect the request to the second web address.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for forwarding a web address to another web address, comprising:

a host computer operable to receive a request destined to a first web address including a domain name and a uniform resource identifier (URI), search a data file for a forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) that corresponds to the domain name, combine the forwarding uniform resource locator (URL) and the uniform resource identifier (URI) to form a second web address without changing the uniform resource identifier, and redirect the request to the second web address;

a customer database storing forwarding information; and

a data generator operable to extract forwarding information from the customer database and store the forwarding information in the data file.

25. (Canceled)